

AMENDMENTS

Please amend the claims as follows:

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1. **(Amended)** A photocatalytic composition comprising at least one photocatalyzing agent and an aqueous colloidal dispersion comprising from 20 to 50% by weight silica particles having a diameter of between 10 and 40 nanometers and a specific surface area greater than 80 m²/g, said silica particles being capable of bonding together after having coated the photocatalyzing agent.

A marked-up version of the claim amendments is attached hereto.

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 were originally included in the application, which is a US national phase filing under 35 USC §371, claiming priority from International Application No. PCT/FR/99/00748, filed March 31, 1999, and French application No 98/04401, filed on April 3, 1998. Claims 12, 22 and 23 were canceled and claims 24-28 were added in a preliminary amendment filed with the application. Therefore, claims 1-11, 13-21 and 24-28 are pending in the application.

The Office Action states that the claims do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 and that they lack the same or corresponding special technical features under Rule 13.2 because the claims are anticipated or obvious over US Patent No. 5,616,532 (Heller) and/or US Patent No. 6,277,346 (Murasawa). The application is subject to restriction between four groups of claims,

which are defined as:

- I. Claims 1-11
- II. Claims 13-18
- III. Claims 20-21
- IV. Claims 24-28